

QUICK FACTS TOBACCO LAWS FOR TEENS

1. If you are under the age of 18 years, it is illegal to possess, smoke, chew, or ingest tobacco. It is also illegal to purchase or attempt to purchase tobacco.
2. If you are under the age of 18 years and use a Minnesota driver's license, permit, or identification card to purchase or attempt to purchase tobacco, your driver's license may be suspended for 90 days.
3. If you lend or allow another person under the age of 18 years to use your driver's license, permit, or identification card to purchase or attempt to purchase tobacco, you may lose your license for 90 days.
4. If you are under the age of 18 years and commit a second or subsequent juvenile tobacco offense, your license may be revoked until you reach the age of 18, or for a period of one year, whichever is longer.
5. Anyone who sells tobacco to a person under the age of 18 years will be charged an administrative penalty.



Joseph Rysavy - All Saints School, Lakeville - 2001

Resources

Dakota County Public Health ASSIST Program

14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124
(952) 898-4928

American Lung Association

490 Concordia Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55103-2441
(651) 227-8014 / (800) 642-LUNG

American Cancer Society

3316 West 66th Street
Edina, MN 55435
(952) 925-2772

Association for Non-Smokers (ANSR)

2395 University Avenue West
Suite #310
St. Paul, MN 55114
(651) 646-3005

Minnesota Smoke Free Coalition

1619 Dayton Avenue, #303
St. Paul, MN 55104
(651) 641-1223

**OBEY
THE LAW**
Use of
Tobacco
Kills

**Be
Smart
Don't
Start**

For more information regarding the
Youth Accountability Program, contact:

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Dakota County Attorney's Office
1560 Highway 55
Hastings, MN 55033
(651) 438-4438

www.co.dakota.mn.us/attorney

TOBACCO

YOUTH ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM

An alternative to
Juvenile Court for
first time offenders

A cooperative effort between
JAMES C. BACKSTROM
DAKOTA COUNTY ATTORNEY
and
DAKOTA COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH



Emphysema

Tobacco is a highly addictive drug and can serve as the gateway to other forms of drug addiction. Use of tobacco is highly addictive and more than 80% of smokers started before the age of 18. Cigarette smoking is perhaps the most easily preventable cause of disease and premature death. The Dakota County Attorney's Office and the Dakota County Public Health Department believe that there is an important and appropriate role for government to play in helping prevent youth from using tobacco. The Dakota County Youth Accountability Program is designed to give youth information and skills to avoid further tobacco use.

Why the Youth Accountability Program?

The program is offered by the Dakota County Attorney's Office as an alternative to court to juveniles involved in illegal use of tobacco products.

What are the Components of the Program?

1. The juvenile must attend a two and one-half hour educational class. The class is taught by staff of the Dakota County Public Health Department.
2. A parent must attend a one hour educational class.
3. The juvenile must pay a fee at the start of the class.
4. The class focuses on:
 - Advertising techniques used by tobacco companies to manipulate youth.
 - Types of chemicals found in tobacco.
 - Costs associated with tobacco.
 - How to quit.
 - Health benefits of quitting.
 - Legal consequences of using tobacco.

What Benefits are provided through the Program?

- Helpful information on how to quit using tobacco.
- Educational information on the dangers of tobacco as well as the legal and financial consequences of using tobacco.
- The juvenile's citation will be dismissed after attendance at the class so there will not be a court record that the juvenile committed the offense.
- The cost of the class is less than the court fine.

Who is Eligible for the Program?

1. First time juvenile tobacco offenders.
2. Juveniles referred by school officials because of tobacco use.
3. Juveniles referred by the Court.
4. Any juvenile who voluntarily enrolls in the program.

What Happens when a juvenile doesn't choose to participate in the Program?

More than 80% of smokers started before the age of 18.

- The County Attorney's Office will notify the Court to process the juvenile's citation.
- The juvenile will be notified of a date to appear in court or to pay a fine.
- If the juvenile is found to have committed the offense, he/she will be required to pay a fine.
- The juvenile will have a court record of having committed the offense.

Smoking kills more Americans each year than alcohol, cocaine, crack, heroin, homicide, suicide, car accidents, fires and AIDS COMBINED!!

Chronic Bronchitis

Heart Disease